

something like this. Once the committee made the decision that...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Johnson, may I interrupt a second. If Mr. Robert Keyes is around, I understand they want to tow your car away, and if you would run out there quickly, maybe they would not tow your car away. Mr. Robert Keyes. Excuse me, Senator Johnson, proceed.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Well, once the committee made the decision that we would not subject to the sales tax churches, and hospitals, and private educational institutions, and certain nonprofit organizations providing services exclusively to the blind, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, once we made that decision, then the retention of the purchasing agent language became somewhat more difficult to justify but the committee said, you know, it is one thing to continue the exemption to the priest, and to the minister, and the other cleric that goes out and buys products for the church, and it is a different thing to continue to make the exemption for a purchasing agent who goes out and buys things for the church knowing that the purchasing agent could easily commingle that which he buys in a tax exempt form for that which he ultimately has to use for tax purposes. We felt that the possibility of cheating or dishonesty on the part of purchasing agents was possible, and for that reason, we thought that we would keep the purchasing agent language in. Now you will note from your report I think that if the purchasing agent language goes out, ostensibly we will lose \$1.195 million. I have been informed by the Department of Revenue that in fact most of that dollar amount represents losses that we will already sustain by virtue of taking the churches themselves out, hospitals themselves out, and private educational institutions out. So my guess is that if the purchasing agent language comes out of this bill by virtue of the Withem amendment that the losses will not be quite as grievous as \$1,195,000. We simply don't know what the total loss would be. But, Senator Withem, I would like to ask this question of you. If this body saw fit to take the purchasing agent language out, would you support this bill all the way across Final Reading?

SENATOR WITHEM: Senator Johnson, Final Reading is a long ways away. My intent at this point, probably this is my major objection to the bill at this point, Senator Johnson,